

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an article, comprising:
a supply step of supplying an elastic material;
a separating step of cutting pieces of elastic from the elastic material when the elastic material is in a stretched state;
a changing step of changing the interval between two adjacent pieces of elastic while the pieces are maintained in the stretched state;
a supply step of supplying a first web;
a transferring step of transferring an elastic piece to the first web in a flow direction of the first web;
a first bonding step of bonding the first web and the elastic piece together;
a placement step of placing a second web so as to sandwich the elastic piece between the first web and the second web; and
a second bonding step of bonding the first web, the elastic piece and the second web together at a plurality of locations;
wherein the steps are performed as part of a lateral flow process.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an article according to claim 1, wherein the first bonding step comprises a step of applying an adhesive on the first web for temporarily tacking the elastic on the first web.

4. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an article according to claim 1, wherein the first bonding step comprises a step of applying an adhesive on the elastic for temporarily tacking the elastic on the first web.

5. (Original) A method for producing an article according to claim 1, wherein the second bonding step is performed by passing the first web, the elastic and the second web between an embossing roll and an anvil roll.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an article, comprising:
a supply step of supplying an elastic material;
a separating step of cutting pieces of elastic from the elastic material when the elastic material is in a stretched state;
a changing step of changing the interval between two adjacent pieces of elastic while the pieces are maintained in the stretched state;

a supply step of supplying a first web;
a transferring step of transferring an elastic piece to the first web;
a first bonding step of bonding the first web and the elastic piece together;
a placement step of placing a second web so as to sandwich the elastic piece
between the first web and the second web;
a second bonding step of bonding the first web, the elastic piece and the second
web together at a plurality of locations ~~A method for producing an article according to~~
~~claim 1, further comprising the steps of:~~
cutting a combined web produced in the second bonding step into a first
combined web and a second combined web;
spacing apart the first combined web and the second combined web from each
other; and
placing an absorbent so as to bridge between the first combined web and the
second combined web, which have been spaced apart from each other.

7. (Original) A method for producing an article according to claim 6, further
comprising a step of making a hole for trimming a leg hole.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an article, comprising:
a supply step of supplying an elastic material;
a separating step of cutting pieces of elastic from the elastic material when the
elastic material is in a stretched state;
a changing step of changing the interval between two adjacent pieces of elastic
while the pieces are maintained in the stretched state;
a supply step of supplying a first web;
a transferring step of transferring an elastic piece to the first web in a flow
direction of the first web;
a first bonding step of bonding the first web with first and second pieces of
elastic;
a placing step of placing a second web so that the first elastic piece is
sandwiched between the first web and the second web and placing a third web so that
the second elastic piece is sandwiched between the first web and the third web; and
a second bonding step of bonding the first web, the first elastic piece and the
second web together at a plurality of locations and bonding the first web, the second
elastic piece and the third web together at a plurality of locations;
wherein the steps are performed as part of a lateral flow process.

9. (Original) A method for producing an article according to claim 8, further comprising a step of placing an absorbent.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an article, comprising:
a supply step of supplying an elastic material;
a separating step of cutting pieces of elastic from the elastic material when the elastic material is in a stretched state;
a changing step of changing the interval between two adjacent pieces of elastic while the pieces are maintained in the stretched state;
a supply step of supplying a first web;
a transferring step of transferring a first and second elastic piece to the first web in a flow direction of the first web;
a first bonding step of bonding the first web with first and second pieces of elastic;
a placement step of placing a second web so that the first elastic piece and the second elastic piece are sandwiched between the first web and the second web; and
a second bonding step of bonding the first web, the first and second pieces of elastic and the second web together at a plurality of locations;
wherein the steps are performed as part of a lateral flow process.

11. (Original) A method for producing an article according to claim 10, further comprising a step of placing an absorbent.

12. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an article, comprising the steps:
supplying a first web;
supplying first and second elastics being in a stretched state;
cutting the first and second elastics into a plurality of first stretched sheets and a plurality of second stretched sheets;
_____a first changing step of changing the interval between two adjacent pieces of first stretched sheets after the pieces are cut and while the pieces are maintained in the stretched state;
placing the first stretched sheets at a predetermined interval in a flow direction of the first web along one edge of the first web;
a second changing step of changing the interval between two adjacent pieces of second stretched sheets after the pieces are cut and while the pieces are maintained in the stretched state;

placing the second stretched sheets at a predetermined interval in a flow direction of the first web along the other edge of the first web;
placing a second web so as to cover the first and second stretched sheets;
thermally bonding the first and second stretched sheets between the first web and the second web to produce a laminate;
placing one end of an absorbent between two adjacent ones of the first stretched sheets;
placing the other end of the absorbent between two adjacent ones of the second stretched sheets.

13. (Original) A method for producing a worn article, comprising the steps of:
supplying a first web;
supplying a stretched elastic;
cutting the elastic into a plurality of stretched sheets;
placing the sheets at a predetermined interval in a flow direction of the first web along a longitudinal centerline of the first web;
placing a second web so as to cover the sheets;
thermally bonding the first web, the sheets and the second web together to produce a laminate;
cutting the laminate, including the sheets therein, into two waist portions each being a continuous portion;
spacing apart the two waist portions from each other in a width direction of the first web;
placing one end of an absorbent on one of the waist portions; and
placing the other end of the absorbent on the other one of the waist portions.

14. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an article according to claim 1, wherein the changing step includes changing the spacing between adjacent elastic pieces while rotating the elastic pieces about a same radius.

15. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an article according to claim 8, wherein the changing step includes changing the spacing between adjacent elastic pieces while rotating the elastic pieces about a same radius.

16. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an article according to claim 10, wherein the changing step includes changing the spacing between adjacent elastic pieces while rotating the elastic pieces about a same radius.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for producing an article according to claim 12, wherein the first and second changing steps include changing the spacing between adjacent elastic pieces while rotating the elastic pieces about a same radius.